

**MAG Dark Sky Stakeholders Group (DSSG)
Draft Meeting Notes**

July 8, 2009

Chris Luginbuhl of the United States Naval Observatory in Flagstaff led discussion on the draft MAG Pattern Lighting Code (PLC), beginning at section 5.3C.

Mr. Luginbuhl stated that he prefers to call the document a “pattern”, as it is cut to fit like a seamstress pattern for a dress. He noted that calling it a “model” implies that it is perfect as is. So he thought it best to keep the name, MAG Pattern Lighting Code (PLC).

Elizabeth Alvarez, a member of the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, brought a luminescence meter to the meeting and passed it around for everyone to examine. She said that she would be measuring light output from various signs and places around the valley on the night of July 8th. She asked attendees for recommendations of places she could go or where they might want her to go to measure light output.

Stacey Bridge-Denzak, City of Avondale, mentioned that on July 7th, their city council members and mayor went on a bus tour at night to see various electronic message signs and have discussion about them.

Section 5.3C was discussed at the June meeting. Ms. Bridge-Denzak re-emphasized that staff at the City of Avondale are not comfortable with the phrase “not permitted” and they may not adopt the MAG PLC if that wording remains in the document. Brian Rose, Town of Buckeye, noted that Buckeye likes that wording and said the PLC needs to have teeth to be effective. Chris Luginbuhl noted that as discussed at the last meeting, language could be added to the document to include alternatives for section 5.3C, such as stating that “multicolor LED billboards are discouraged.” The group ended by agreeing to keep 5.3C as is and each community can change it as necessary. Because this is a pattern code it is not necessary for it to have specific language on 5.3C. Gordon Sheffield, City of Mesa, made the point that LEDs can be used for any kind of sign. Chris Luginbuhl said he would make the appropriate changes to the PLC to reflect Mr. Sheffield’s comment.

Table 5.4 – Gordon Sheffield suggested including a “mixed use” land use category.

Section 6.1D – Kyle Mieras, Town of Gilbert, suggested adding a short description for classes of sports lighting. See section 16.7 – definitions.

Section 6.1F – Gordon Sheffield suggested adding the phrase “or architect” to this statement, “Every such lighting system design and installation shall be certified by a registered engineer or architect as conforming to all applicable restrictions of this Code.”

Section 6.2 – Bold the title “Display Lots” as it is a definition.

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Section 6.2C – Mike Sills-Trausch, City of Glendale, suggested deleting the word, “only”, as it is not necessary. Mr. Sills-Trausch also asked for an explanation of why the total outdoor light output for the display lot area is 300,000 lumens per acre.

Section 6.3C – Mr. Sills-Trausch asked for an explanation of why the light output used for illuminating service station canopies is 40 lumens per square foot of canopy.

Sections 16.13 Footcandle and Section 16.23 Lux. - Chris Luginbuhl said he would rewrite these sections to make them more understandable. He will rewrite them in narrative English and eliminate sentence fragments.

Heidi Pahl, MAG staff, said she would invite the MAG Senior Policy Planner to a future MAG DSSG meeting to explain MAG’s role in the DSSG. This would include an explanation of the intent of the DSSG, planned outcome of the DSSG, explanation of the MAG committee process, attendance at DSSG meetings, and responses to other questions.

Ms. Pahl agreed to have name tents at the next meeting.

Ms. Pahl said she would send the documents from Mesa to Mr. Luginbuhl.